(c) and (d) NIAR and other Amateur Radio Clubs, being private (Non-Government) bodies set up their regional centers as per their program.

Booking of cargo by post offices

892. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices would book cargo in Indian and other domestic airlines as its diversification plan;

(b) if so, what about pick-up, insurance and delivery of consignments;

(c) the cities where it would be launched; and

(d) by when the scheme is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No decision has been taken regarding the booking of air cargo by the post office.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Road map for becoming an IT Super Power

893. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge number of applications for patenting technology product has been filed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of applications the nature of products, the status of applications;

(c) the number of ratio of Intellectual Property applications filed by the private sector and the public sector;

(d) the steps taken and priority attached by Government to R&D efforts, especially in knowledge sector; and

(e) the future road map visualized by the country for becoming an IT Super Power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The inflow of patent applications has gone up from less than 5,000 in 1999-2000 to more than 24,000 in the year 2005-06. The number of patents granted in said years were 1881 and 4320 respectively. The technology areas covered include primarily Mechanicals, Chemicals, Computer/Electronics, General items, Drugs, Electricals, Biotechnology and Food items etc. Exacts break up between Public Sector and Private Sector - number of Applications filed is not readily available.

(d) and (e) Government, through its various sectoral departments like of Information Technology, Bio-Technology and others dealing with different areas of knowledge economy attaches very priority to R&D efforts specially in knowledge sectors. The National Knowledge Commission was constituted on 13.6.05 to transfer India into a strong and vibrant knowledge economy particularly through R&D efforts in science & technology labs, agriculture etc. Many Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO's) are also coming up in the country. Many sectors have developed to have their own full fledged knowledge assets to empower their knowledge workers use IT and other tools tailored to their specific needs. Some IT industries have recently become "Most Admired Knowledge Enterprises (MAKE)" in the country.

To become an IT superpower, the country has embarked upon many major initiatives. These include enhancing penetration of PCs and Internet access for the masses and ready data/information on the web in the Indian languages, progressively achieve higher quantities of high level trained manpower and setting up e-infrastructures etc. The National e-Governance Programme consisting of various Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and components has been approved and their implementation is underway. As per initiatives of NASSCOM, special focus has been given to Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) Sector and other initiatives etc. Diverse Technology Parks, Technology Incubation Centres etc., have been set up alongwith efforts for enhancing synergy in R&D among local industries, academics and research. Many Telemedicine, Internet Governance, Cyber Security projects have been implemented. Setting up of integrated circuit fabrication units etc. has been planned. Department of IT is supporting R&D activities in various identified priority areas such as Nano-technology, Ubiquitious Computing, Tera Scale Super Computing, Bioinformatics,

Convergence and Communication, Photonics, Indian Language Technologies etc. DIT has also set up scientific societies such CDAC, SAMEER and Media Lab Asia to take up R&D in specific areas.

Hardware and electronic manufacturing in India

894. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it it a fact that hardware manufacturing in India has lagged far behind in software and services due to lack of supportive eco-system;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard including rising demand of semi-conductor products which are being imported by the country between Rs. 2000-2500 crores;

(c) whether Government are also planning to set up joint ventures in hardware and electronic manufacturing with foreign manufacturing countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government for promotion and growth of Electronics/IT Hardware Industry in the country are given in the Statement *(See below)*.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for promotion and growth of Electronics/IT Hardware Industry in the country

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Electronics/IT Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.